

# MACLEAN'S

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JANUARY 17 2005

## INSIDE THE RELIEF EFFORT

**SPECIAL REPORT**

By CHARLIE GILLIS  
in Banda Aceh

'A drive down  
the main road is a  
journey through hell.  
At a refugee camp,  
Ernawati Sulaiman  
mourns the death  
of her husband and  
three of her children.  
The fourth is missing.'





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thank you missed the whole point. I wanted to hear about the spiritual transformation, not an architectural critique of the holy city. You might as well have gone to the Vatican! **Brian MacL, Toronto**

After reading Adrian R. Khan's account of his pilgrimage to Mexico, I felt a true sense of gratitude that I live in a country where so many different religions can co-exist peacefully. It's a luxury we often take for granted. **Suzanne Sherry, Hamilton**

#### You go, boy!

I would like to commend Jonathan Gathwaite for outliving Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams' heave attempts to secure a better deal for our province ("Local hero," Politics, Dec. 20). While Ottawa made deals on our resources chest, we continue to make strong contributions to Canada. Our iron on employing people in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba, the lion's share of our offshore oil and gas revenues go directly into the national treasury, our hydro power from Churchill Falls provides Quebec about \$800 million a year, as compared with only \$50 million to us. **Gordon Weisman, St. John's, Nfld.**

As a high school student, I was very pleased to see an article on our premier, Danny Williams. This offshore oil deal is very important to the economy of Newfoundland. While our province is plentiful in natural resources, there have been too many times where we have truly given them away. The deal may not have a great effect on the middle-aged population, but my future is at stake here. I'm the one who will have to move to Ontario to find work in a few years time. **Rebecca Smyth, Outer Cove, Nfld.**

#### Code busters

What is most depressing about your cover story on The Da Vinci Code is that over 17 million copies of a book with literary qualities less than that of the Lee Valley catalogue have been sold ("Cracking the Da Vinci code," Cover, Dec. 20). It is a piece of shoddy writing, poor scholarship and superstitious nonsense. **Ed. Watson, Calgary**

I think that all this fuss around cracking the code makes no sense. Isn't the point of



Newfoundland's Danny Williams gets cheered from the home crowd in his fight with Ottawa

fiction to entertain? Doesn't Dan Brown do just that with a book that draws on things that are both real and make-believe to spot a yarn that some 17 million people want to read? Your essay by Brian Bellows, commenting on all the fallacies, does nothing more than add to the existing bogota and makes more people wonder if there may be some truth to the story. Or maybe Bellows wants us all to read it. The plot thickens. **Rajesh Kaural, Markham, Ont.**

#### Class acts

I want to thank Jeff Harris for the careful, sensitive, grade story regarding the downfall of teachers who made an impact on his life and gave him an awareness of his possibilities ("Innocence betrayed," Essay, Dec. 20). He did not praise or condemn. He acknowledged what his former teachers gave him and how they helped make him the person he is today. I am a teacher. And as a

teacher, I want to get called "Willy Wilma" when a teacher became upset with us, unfortunately. We were punched, quite hard, in the face, and a decision was drawn in for dessert. **Patrice Bédard, Whitehorse, Yukon**

#### Newfoundland tsunami

As the government who wrote the Energy Perspectives Canada study of the Nov. 18, 1929 earthquake and tsunami that hit Newfoundland's Burn Peninsula, let me correct two small errors ("A tidal wave for the ages," History, Nov. 15). The height of the tsunami were ranged from two to seven metres, not two to 27 metres. Also, a tsunami is not ever correctly referred to as a tidal wave as its earthquake origin is quite unrelated to lunar or solar tides.

**Alan Buffum, president, Geomatics Association Ltd. Halifax**

#### Let's mean business!

I agree with John Innes' 100 per cent ("Did you wear that to work?," On style, Dec. 20) that casual dress has gone too far. I recently had a meeting with my modulator to go over my portfolio and expressed my displeasure over her jeans, oversized bulky sweater and lack of makeup, and was met with arguments. My confidence is greatly eroded when I go to a bank or financial institution and I am met by people dressed more for back country hiking than handling my financial affairs. Keep up the excellent *Newsweek* coverage for looking good. **Maureen Morris, Calgary**



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## MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



### DEALING WITH TRAGEDY

Calamities, like the tsunami that struck Southeast Asia, provoke a deeply human and often lingering response. Senior Writer Charlie Gillis and Chief Photographer Peter Gregg, who last week accompanied a Canadian relief team to Indonesia, are both accustomed to preparing physically and mentally for the devastation and isolated miracles of such scenes. Dealing with tragedy's emotional hangover, however, is something that even veteran journalists struggle with.

Gillis and Gregg both have extensive experience in international reporting—including some of the world's most troubled places, such as Sudan and Rwanda. One lesson of those experiences is that each situation brings its own challenges and burdens.

Prior to their departure, Gillis and Gregg received a battery of shots and medical tests before they boarded a charter aircraft that took them from Toronto through Hong Kong to Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, from there they had only a brief stopover before joining a convoy of relief workers and Canadian government officials headed for some of the country's worst hit areas (above).

A unique aspect of this assignment is that journalists prefer to travel independently to report on breaking stories, rather than relying on assistance from others—but the tsunami relief effort is an exception to that general rule. "This is a case where the people that Charlie and Peter are travelling with become a key part of the story themselves," says Maclean's Editor Anthony Wilson Smith. "And overall, everybody is on the same page in terms of the ultimate goal: journalists and aid workers just want to get to the scene as quickly as possible to start making things better." Gillis's account of the relief efforts, including the Canadian contributions, can be found beginning on page 18—accompanied by Gregg's photos.

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## UPFRONT

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### Tsunami | An entire world mourns, in its many ways

Solemn and sad-eyed, a young Thai girl wanders quietly among the candles at a stadium in Phuket. More than 10,000 were lit for the victims of the tsunami; many were laser-etched with names in languages to the night sky. They were part of a memorial service that brought together Thailand's Muslims, Christians and Buddhists

in a community of mourning that appeared to walk around the world. At the UN in New York, national flags were lowered in salute, while in Europe millions of people—brought to the sky drops to mark holidays to the Vatican—observed three minutes of silence. Church bells tolled to fill the gap that words could not

**Quote of the week** | "She was bootleg dry. The law just came down too hard, too fast and too wicked." Barkeep **DAVE HANSEN** closes the unlicensed bar in his garage

in North Bayville Harbour, P.E.I., ending a long island tradition that dates back to Prohibition

### ScoreCard



#### CANADIAN JUNIORS

Some, the hockey games were one-sided—but a great national junior team can't be blamed for crushing its competitors. With writer howling at the door, NHL rules (and) Canada's ice hockey's mind, a world championship was just what the doc ordered. Thanks, guys.



#### CHARITY

It takes a global village to rebuild after catastrophic. Arlen Hankins, and generous worldwide response is becoming first step. Inevitably there will be setbacks, which is where faith and hope—and good-variant—come in.



#### MARGARET ATWOOD

Author develops remote device allowing her to stay home and autograph books from afar via computer. Besides being a writer, she will be now for Atwood's life (sarcasm)—if someone else had invented it.



#### DAVE BARRY

King of boozing jokes takes break after almost 20 years of writing syndicated humor column on American life. Abandoning field of U.S. commentary to "serious" columnists, whose sources are often laughable, but rarely funny.

## Mansbridge on the Record



## HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

Comparing Canada's tsunami relief aid to a movie star's may be misleading

**THAT BANNER** at the bottom of the TV screen when you're watching an all-news channel is called a "crawl." Some people like it—claiming it gives them a feeling of being up-to-date. Others hate it and make sure networks know that with letters and emails complaining that it's a frustrating distraction.

The other day I was watching Paul Martin defend his government's response to the unfolding disaster in Southeast Asia while, at the same time, trying to read the crawl. Martin was arguing that Ottawa's \$80 million aid package (already increased twice, it's expected to be bumped higher again) made Canada one of the world's leading nation donors. Meanwhile, the crawl was reporting that American actress Sandra Bullock—and keep in mind we're not talking Julia Roberts here—had just pledged down US\$1 million for tsunami relief. Now what are we to make of that? Some will argue that Ottawa can surely do better than 65 times, once you do the conversion, the commitment of a media-driven Hollywood actress. Fair or unfair?

Trying to judge Ottawa's contribution can be tricky. It's a lot of money? Compared to what? Well, here are a couple of ways to look at it. First the Senate, that home for pith of

“**Eight out of 10 Canadians make at least one charitable donation every year in total, we give \$6 billion annually—much of it overseas**”

than \$100 million. What is the Canadian Revenue Centre, you ask? It's the bureaucracy established to administer the gas tax surcharge.

But Ottawa's financial commitment in confronting disasters is never the full picture of Canada's contribution. Our history has shown that Canadians can't always depend on government when it comes to promises of foreign aid. When Lester Pearson's secretary of state for external affairs, Paul Martin Sr., promised in the 1960s that one per cent of the country's gross domestic product would be directed to help nations in need, it was heralded as a noble move. In the decades since, no matter the government, that goal has never been met. The Irish rocker Bono pleaded with the latest Paul Martin, during his leadership convention, to make it happen—but it hasn't yet. The last published figure shows foreign aid at barely one-fifth of one per cent of GDP.

But here's the good news: Canadians as individuals aren't holding back, and it doesn't take a tsunami to move them. We are a giving nation, and there are lots of examples to back that up. Eight out of 10 Canadians over the age of 15 make at least one charitable donation every year, in total, Canada gave \$6 billion to charity annually—and in both those cases many of the beneficiaries are overseas. Canadians, through the Foster Parents Plan, support 118,000 children in developing countries. Free the Children, a Canadian group, has built 375 schools for more than 30,000 children around the world. And the list goes on.

So we may not have a Sandra Bullock to put on the crawl, but we do have millions who are just as well-intentioned, and they're proving it again in their response to this latest tragedy. And for that, we, and the government, should both be proud. **E**

Peter Mansbridge is chief correspondent at CBC Television News and *At Issue* at Five. E-mail: [pmansbridge@cbc.ca](mailto:pmansbridge@cbc.ca)

## Canadiana

## Abashed

The Newfoundland flag has returned its third week with no real sign of a trace between flag-lowering. Premier Danny Williams said one Paul Martin. In fact,



a group of Labradorians intent on naming the Miq'eq to its full glory had to build their own flagpole when competitors cut the ropes on the official one in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The most astute kids pro Newfoundland went to fashion designer Muriel Routhier, whose sleek, black, Canadian flag of flag bedecked swimwear is worn by Olympic medalists. A big fan of the poster, the Labrador-based Routhier is

pulling her sweater late for good morning, she's also changing her surname to joinpost-9/11. Routhier stemming from the distal end of the original lyrics to the national anthem, as for the main project, however, says the flag won't stay down forever, and he's ready to try one more time to negotiate a deal with the PM. Ottawa, however, is adamant no talks while the flag is a political pawn.



## Bad fruit

Nice enough on its own, this carved ivory pomegranate was also said to have been from King Solomon's fabled temple. Little wonder it attracted huge crowds to two Canadian museums in 2001 and 2003. It was lost its due date—a 10th-century-elder King Solomon—and the incomplete linking it to the biblical temple is now officially

declared a forgery. That was possibly Maclean's Ottawa Bureau Chief John Seaborn's word about a December 2003, when the carving went on display at Montreal, before moving on to the Ottawa area. His report quoted one of the world's leading experts: Frank Moore Cross, professor emeritus at Harvard University. No matter, it was viciously attacked by the museum's president in the Bible-linked collection, including the Canadian Museum of Civilization, which now says no one suspected the carved ivory was a "lost" at the time of the show. But, but, but...

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## UPFRONT

## WORLD

**CHINA'S CHILDREN** With much fanfare, China welcomed the birth of a 1.5-billionth citizen—an 8-lb. boy—tooting it as a success for its controversial one-child policy. Under the 26-year regime, China's population may have fallen from 5.6 billion to 5.4 billion by the 1970s to 1.6 today. But critics say the draconian measure has led to a huge gender imbalance as many Chinese favor boys and so abort females or give up infant girls to foreign adoption. To counter this, China now proposes to make the abortion of female fetuses a criminal offense.

**MIDDLE EAST** Ashe Jan 9 elections approached to choose a new Palestinian leader, the riotous grew sharper, as did the attacks. At one point, former mayor Mahmoud Abbas labelled Israel the "Zionist enemy," though he later said he would be willing to enter into peace talks if he won. In a blow to his credibility, however, militants ignored his plea for a truce and launched rocket and other attacks against Israel. The Israelis retaliated, killing seven Palestinian youths.

**ISRAELI RESERVE OFFICERS** also joined rebel forces. Some said they would not participate in entering down Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip, a lightning in Prince Munir and Sharon's plan to restart peace talks.

**AMERICANS** A California divorce in California concluded a US\$106-million settlement with



general, is getting a rough reception ride from Democrats. They're upset that he endorsed and wrote numerous 2001 bills seemed to mock the Geneva Convention on torture. The Republican majority will likely ensure his appointment, but Gore also was forced to admit he would "no longer represent only the White House. I will represent the United States of America and its people."

**NUCLEAR** After two years of negotiation and delay, Iran will open its secretive Parchin nuclear complex on the basis of Tehran to UN experts. U.S. intelligence officials have suggested the site was used to make high-explosive components for nuclear weapons, something Iran has denied.

Meanwhile, the UN watchdog is also reportedly investigating Egypt for what, undertaken earlier, involved experiments some two decades ago that had been aimed at developing nuclear weapons.

## COME OUT, COME OUT

Bill Clinton's opportunity to do so. He was seen in a 1991 interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, if not little more than. The move is one of two steps to find on March 1, 2001. They were supposed to have come out after three months, but keep coming back this morning.

90 people, victims of sexual abuse by clergy and other church employees dating back nearly 70 years. The largest U.S. settlement to date, it follows a US\$183 million payout to abuse victims in Boston. Some lawyers suggest the total cost to the Church, after all suits are settled, will be over US\$1 billion.

He's a success story for Hispanic Americans, but White House counsel Alberto Gonzales, George W. Bush's nominee for attorney

**UNRAVELING** In a fitting end to Clinton's two-term political career, a 1991 election, did-gone leader Bill Clinton's decision to concede and challenged the result of the second vote, on Dec. 26, before the U.S. Supreme Court. The court threw out his appeal, setting the stage for Vice President Al Gore to win the election. He's a success story for Hispanic Americans, but White House counsel Alberto Gonzales, George W. Bush's nominee for attorney

BY GRADIE MAURAT



## HEALTH

**RABBIT** A British study of 240 "muscle babies"—age 10 to 11—found that nearly half had significant learning and physical difficulties by the time they reached school. Only 20 percent had no discernible problems.

In related news, researchers who live in areas with a high degree of air pollution across greenhouse smaller studies, according to a U.S. study of 18,000 California babies born in 2000.

**STEM CELLS** Using altered adult stem cells from monkey embryos, Japanese researchers have successfully treated adult monkeys with a Parkinson's-like nerve disorder. The scientists said it was the first successful treatment on a primate, but they also





Books | MALCOLM GLADWELL

## 'WHEN I GREW MY HAIR, THE WAY THE WORLD TREATED ME CHANGED'

**NEW YORKER WRITER** Malcolm Gladwell is one of North America's most influential popular-intellectuals. He doesn't reinvent the wheel so much as disassemble it, revealing something essential about its inner workings we'll never notice before. The *Alchemist*, *Outliers*—his first book, *The Tipping Point*, about how ideas spread through the culture, is a marketing industry bible. His second effort, *Blind: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, asks what we can learn from the thoughts that cross our minds in the blink of an eye?

You've co-opted the word "blink" to mean something other than shutting your eyes. The modern world is built on deliberate,

analytical thinking. Think in the land of thinking that goes on in a flash, in the instant we encounter a person or situation.

**What's so special about such blink moments?**  
Sometimes we don't learn to these thoughts when we could have learned from them. Or we do learn without realizing they're our signed or prejudged. When I grew my hair long a few years ago, the way the world treated me changed. I got pulled over by cops who thought I was a rapist. I went from being a low-ranking officer to a poster of control by virtue of changing one part of my appearance. It became important to me to understand what goes on in those first two seconds.

**You use the example of Tom Hanks to explain how something about a person's features or mannerisms can inspire instant empathy in people. Do you think the success of politicians can be explained this way?**

I suppose Bush really is like Tom Hanks in a certain sense. He's enormously likable. People feel comfortable around him, and that's not an ordinary trait for a politician. Once the decision was made that he was noble and likable, a lot of important information about him became not relevant.

**Do you think Canadians and Americans differ fundamentally in how they think?**

I think they're profoundly and anxiously different. Americans can't make a distinction between a larger sense of what's right and their own personal feelings.

**Red Crosses?**

Well, on the subject of gay marriage, Canadians are capable of carrying two antagonistic thoughts in their heads simultaneously. I don't agree with this on a personal level—but to a citizen I will go along. That thinking—which is essential for a civil society to function properly—appears to be what Americans at the moment are incapable of doing.

**Do you keep on top of goings-on here?**

I like to monitor what things in the U.S. might get so bad that I'll want to come home. I find it harder and harder to understand how I can live in a country that's officially so hostile to my own values and political interests.

**Did you have a blink impression of how this interview was going to go?**

I'm not intending to flatter you, but all Canadian interviews go better. Maybe it's a higher level of literacy in the media class or something. (LAUGHING GORGEOUSLY)



Photo: Steve Delaney/Red Cross

Help can't wait.

The most powerful earthquake in nearly 40 years and resulting tsunamis left more than 150,000 people dead, half a million injured and millions more homeless. Help is urgently needed today in the coastal areas of many Asian countries.

Cash donations will help Red Cross provide essential relief items such as food, clean water, tents and blankets now, and assist with the recovery that will take years.

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# INSIDE THE RELIEF EFFORT

By CHARLIE GILLIS in Banda Aceh

**IN THE CRUSHING** heat of a Sumatran afternoon, amid the rising odors of rotting flesh, Nurrisih Ali is wading across a waste land of broken concrete, sifting at the ground as though dredging what she's come here to find. "My two granddaughters," says the

34-year-old through tears. "Both are gone." Ali's son, Masriadi, was swept away from home when his family was swept away, she says, but her daughter-in-law, Siti Hajarish, "went with the waves"—the tsunamis that swallowed three-year-old Wan Muzra and

baby Masidi, who was just six months old.

From afar, Ali's search seems pointless: uprooted palms, chunks of roof, even a giant, crumpled badminton litter the landscape as far as the eye can see, and not a single house remains standing. What's left is a mazy

darkboard of concrete slabs, interspersed with mounds of debris that reach five kilometers inland. As far as the thousands of bodies that have yet to be found and identified, they're already consigned to small, broken concrete and brick. It would be best, one

At dawn, Indonesian troops lead a Hoscares search team for Banda Aceh.

gravely thinks, to declare the search area a graveyard and move on.

But Ali, wearing a black hijab, will have

more of it. Shuffling about on rickety wheels attached from her own walking through wreckage, she cries at times, yet keeps up her search with a grimace of reason. She and her husband, Jatin, made the one dry trip here by motorcycle from their home in

Median, driven so much by their own need to set as any hope of giving their grandchildren a proper burial. "Maybe we should have a giant ceremony for all the dead in our province," she says. "We just need a way to remember all these people."

**DESPAIR**, like grief, is a natural human response to large-scale tragedy. Helplessness, it seems, a lot. Whether it's Akhmed through the killing fields north of Banda Aceh, or the frenzy of aid activity in all the ravaged regions surrounding the Indian Ocean, the urge to do something—anything—has been the defining force at work in the aftermath of the Dec. 26 tsunami, whose death toll now stands at 233,000 (191,000 in Indonesia alone). Donors are giving to relief organizations in outpouring numbers, while governments scramble to keep up with public sentiment (Sri Lanka has indicated it will have to raise its \$500-million pledge, including money to match personal donations to eligible charities, which, at week's end, had reached almost \$100 million).

The disaster area, meanwhile, has become a hotbed of anxious movement, symptomatic of the desire to fix problems few fully understand. Banda Aceh, in particular, took on the feel of a war zone last week, with relief planes and helicopters thundering in the skies, and soldiers from at least four countries filling the streets. "I don't know if we're helping," said an Australian engineer, "but there's sure a hell of a lot of activity here." The result, inevitably, has been confusion.



Last week, members of an emergency medical team from Tacoma spent two days cooling their heads as airport hanger in Banda because U.S. helicopter pilots couldn't squeeze them onto a flight. "Let's just say the organization could have been a lot better," said Ali Kulkarni, 32, an orthopedic surgeon.

Other relief workers were forced to wait in Jakarta as the Medan airport cleared a backlog of flights due to an inexplicable unwillingness to open around the clock during the fiercest days of the crisis. One pilot circled so long that it ran low on fuel and was forced to divert to nearby Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Such glitches are bound to occur in large,

Ali's daughter-in-law and two young granddaughters "went with the waves."

multinational operations, says Dick Booy, vice president of World Vision Canada. That relief agencies should keep their eyes on the longer term, because the true measure of their efforts may well be the number of lives they save from disease, thirst or malnutrition. It's a thought that strained veteran aid worker Booy, 46, through nine frustrating days trying to arrange relief flights from Toronto to northern Sumatra after the tsunami first struck. Changed with the seeming-ly breathless pace of bringing succor to



a region within reach of a major airport, he was confronted with a baffling array of logistical challenges—from Indonesian road rage to a water buffalo that was struck by a plane after wandering onto the Banda Aceh airstrip (no people were hurt, but the airfield was shut down for hours).

Now, with 130,000 kg of supplies including soap, sanitary products and an emergency water purification unit on their way to Aceh province, Booy is looking not days and weeks down the road, but months and years. "We all know from experience that when a crisis happens, it gets the world's attention for several weeks and then falls off

These men were among the many trying to give their relatives a dignified ending.

the radar screen. This time, we just have to follow that rehabilitation all the way through. The Indonesians need their nets and boats back. The water lines need to be set back up, and the houses have to be built again."

**THE IMMEDIATE** challenges are daunting enough. A drive west down the main road from Banda Aceh to Lhoknga Pass resembles a journey through hell, with bugged bodies lying on the shoulders and a few still floating in muddy sloughs formed when the sea

came crashing through. In some neighborhoods, the heaps of debris are taller than the remaining houses, and the human misery continues to multiply. Just last week, Madhoni visited a refugee camp outside Lhoknga just as 28-year-old Ennawati Sukman arrived, declaring that her husband was dead, three of her four children had been killed and one was missing. Stunned in a tent with scrawling in her eyes, the quiet, thin woman told a harrowing tale of being swept up in the recent with all five of her family members. "We were walking home from breakfast at the coffee shop. I thought I was hearing jet flying overhead,

## AID WORKERS AMID THE HORROR

**ALY-KHAN RAJANI, 25, CARE Canada program manager for Southeast Asia, in Banda Aceh, Indonesia**

"CARE's headquarters is full of people—there are about 26 sleeping in every corner of a three-bedroom house. Within a few hours of arriving, I was out in the field. It was a horrific scene, you're in the middle of the city, but it looks as if no one could ever have lived there. All you have is rubble everywhere. There were some little signs of life. We a girl's backpack, a woman's shoe or a photocopy of an identity document, with a photo and a signature.

What really brought it home was seeing body bags—more like garbage bags—on the

side of the road. People were bringing up by volunteers trying to give them a dignified ending. With many more dead my face I watched about 15 university students carrying a body on a home-made gurney. They had made a makeshift walkway with a piece of plywood to get over the water. Other volunteers would walk along the road, open the bags to take a photograph of the face and then close them up again. A truck would come by, almost like picking up garbage—it was quite sickening. They would be buried in a mass grave. The stench of death is in the air, I was told once that the smell never leaves your nostrils, and truly I don't think I'll be the same again.

I spoke to a woman whose husband and

daughter had died. She was left with two children, and she came to ask for her food, and told us that her children died regularly, even before the disaster. That is an area in which poverty already existed. It isn't bottom when it would be like to be that woman, but because of our food distribution her children will have regular meals for a month. It brought it to life that what we do matters. That's a powerful thing. The biggest challenge is the emotional one. It was much more difficult than I would have imagined. It's something you can't control. You see these things, but you're expected to be professional and deliver. Also, people are always 'talking out of death'



waiting around the clock—I've slept three hours a night for the past 10 days—and aching, pecked-on muscles. But you keep going because people are dying."

KARIN MARLEY



**ROD VOLWAY, 35, CARE Canada program manager for the emergency response team, in Banda Aceh**

"Two-five kilometers inland there was a boat,

which just sat around me. You could see the water markings beyond the first and even sometimes beyond the second floor of buildings. As we got closer to the coast on the north side of Banda Aceh, the landscape was empty. It seemed from the amount of debris that there had been a few houses, but someone told me it was actually a highly populated area. It was just decimated. One of the things that really shook me was that there weren't any debris—it had been washed away.

As soon as I got here on Jan. 2, we started discussions with the UN on how to distribute food. The aid organizations are working very well together. It's quite amazing. The attitude has been, quite frankly, 'Get

Volway people are 'stuck' but resilient"

but it turned out to be the water." By about lunch she landed near the top of a mango tree, but now wonders how she got up. "I can't tell you how much I miss them."

And Banda Aceh appears to be recovering well compared to outlying communities on Sumatra's northwest coast. As dignitaries flocked to the regional capital of Aceh province, helicopter crews returning from aid drops along the sea reported villagers rushing to their survival as they awaited the ground, desperate for food and water. Keith Urue, a Wingspinner working in Banda Aceh for the UN's World Food Programme, said there are now from the damage reaches further south than originally thought, all the way to the village of Singkil, some 300 km from the island's northern tip. "We're just starting now to set up a base of operations in this area."

The obstacles to bringing Aceh-level assistance to those areas are daunting—windy roads, washed-out bridges and a paucity of landing strips. But if Nurmah Al's assessments are any indication, a simple desire to help goes a long way. The food, water and shelter arriving from abroad are appreciated, she says, and everyone knows which countries are giving. When asked if outsiders could do anything else to ease her suffering, she pauses a moment, then nods. "That man/family I talked about," she says quietly. "If you really want to make us feel better, you could pay for that."

**ON THE WEB** More band-aid stories: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/1/health>

this out to the people and feed them and we'll sort out the contractual stuff all other nonsense later on."

People here are still shocked—nobody really has a take on it. Quite a while ago, the death toll estimates stopped because they're just too hard to understand. On the other hand, people are very resilient. Markets have opened up. Last Sunday we drove through the bazaar where people were selling fruits and vegetables. We've talked to people in the camps here who had lived on islands to the north or west. They said they don't want to go back. At first I asked why, but most of these people had lost absolutely everything and, as a result, were not rebuilding from scratch. So they've decided that they'd rather try setting up a new life somewhere else."

KATHRINE MACKLEM



Sumatran's husband and three of her four children are dead; the fourth child is missing

**MARTIN MCCANN**, 42, program director (international headquarters) for Porter Peeters Plan, in Jakarta, Indonesia

"A lot of the challenge for this disaster is coordination. I have been attending briefings from the UN to the donor community, meetings with government officials, people from UNICEF, to develop the work and meetings with other NGOs to see how we can support one another. There's been a bit of a scramble, but we had to start doing things right away."

One problem we've found is that some areas are completely wiped out. We didn't even know how badly that there was no one to tell us. I was speaking today with an old friend who is working very hard in Aceh, but her whole home community just doesn't exist anymore. In her extended family, she figures she has lost about 20 people. She is the sort of person

who would be very key in this situation, but she's somewhat distraught. It's only by bit that we're getting the full picture here, there are 130,000 bodies. What that means is, we have covered 130,000 bodies. How many more have been washed out to sea?

On the one hand, it's a luxury, being at a distance. I can go to an occasional meeting and discuss charts and numbers, but on the other hand, it's frustrating to not be right there. I realize that's almost an immediate feeling, but there's always a part of you that wishes you could actually help directly. The spent seven years of my life in Indonesia, I have an extraordinarily deep affection for the people of this country. I think I'm not all that different from just a Canadian who are probably feeling the same sense of, "What can I do?"

KATHRINE MACKLEM



# POLITICS OF DEATH

When cameras leave Asia, will the West's promises go with them?

**AS THE GRISLY DETAILS** emerged in the wake of Southeast Asia's earthquake and tsunami, the world pulled together to never before. Within days, Western governments rounded up the largest foreign aid package ever assembled—a US\$45-billion effort aimed at rebuilding the parts of coastal Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and India hardest hit by the rogue waves. Canada pledged \$40 million, including loads of emergency supplies and the military's disaster assistance unit, by the end of last week. The United States came up with US\$350

million, lending off suggestions it's no stingy with foreign donations. Australia, at last count, led all donors with a promise of US\$115.5 million. Add to that the proceeds from movies benefit concerts and million-dollar donations from Hollywood celebrities, and you have powerful evidence of what is possible on these rare occasions when the depths of human misery are laid bare on nightly newscasts.

At times like these, genuine need intersects with political expediency. Millions of individuals dug out their pockets in quiet acts of compassion that undoubtedly saved lives. And politicians obediently followed the lead of their constituents, because there is no greater political folly than looking like a chump when death is from-page news. But even in Indonesia, the help offered by Western governments is superficial and fleeting when tracked up against the relentless suffering that plagued so much of the world.

The staggering death toll is a symptom of the region's deep poverty, widespread poverty, exacerbated in a lack of decent

medical and emergency services, shoddy infrastructure, poor sanitation and overcrowding. And that's a disease that goes beyond Southeast Asia and the tsunami, to places where far bigger human tragedies are unfolding every now, particularly in Africa.

It is within the West's power to bring about the fundamental economic change needed to address this bigger problem. By providing massive debt relief—forgoing tens of billions of dollars in loans owed by poor nations to their industrialized neighbors, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund—the world could free up those bil-

lions for the poor countries to use elsewhere, and take a critical step forward in the fight against poverty. But that, it appears, is too generous by half for Western leaders. When it comes to the Third World, the wealthiest nations can muster more than enough cash to dole out aid and buy Indonesian villages by the thousands, but not to reform the conditions that led to their deaths, and inflict more on other countries.

The Group of Seven industrialized nations, led by Germany and Canada, has announced a temporary suspension of debt repayments countries directly hit by the disaster. And this week, the so-called "Paris Club" of debtor states will meet to discuss expanding the moratorium. Britain is pushing for broader forgiveness—a deal to wipe out US\$40 billion in Third World debt—

but no chance but to look beyond temporary reprieves for the handful of tsunami-affected countries, to places like sub-Saharan Africa, where 25 million people have died of AIDS since the pandemic began more than a decade ago—more than 150 for every person killed in the tsunami. There are currently about four million with advanced-stage AIDS in Africa, of whom only about 100,000 have access to the drugs needed to treat the disease, and it is estimated that another 3.2 million are infected each year. Despite the ever deepening crisis, aid to the 38 worst-affected African nations fell by a third between 1995 and 2000.

Africa's AIDS catastrophe is but one example. A million people are killed every year by malaria. UNICEF estimates 1.4 million children die annually because they don't have access to safe drinking water. Malaria would say those lives are worth as much as the ones lost in the tsunami, but politics says otherwise. Aid organizations in other parts of the developing world worry that their funds will be garnished to help pay for the cleanup in Southeast Asia. Indeed, the

UN has warned much of the tsunami aid now being pledged is money that's already been budgeted for other development and relief initiatives.

Of course, these agencies shouldn't worry too much about what's about to be lost, since it often is

**PERHAPS IF** African AIDS victims died suddenly and violently, alongside a few thousand Western tourists, rather than wasting away in isolation, the world would take notice

but that idea appears to be going nowhere. Japan and the U.S. are bailing, and Australian Prime Minister John Howard has said he opposes debt forgiveness because there is "no guarantee that money ends up where it should." Little more of his political ideology. Howard prides the traditional foreign aid approach whereby rich nations decide who gets help and how much—a system that amounts to doling out spoonfuls of cough syrup to a patient dying of pneumonia.

If the Paris Club's objectives were moral rather than political, then its members would

forget from what is actually done. After the disaster is first, Mozambique and Haiti, dozens, much of the promised aid never arrived. In 1992, the West committed to increase development aid to 0.7 per cent of gross national product. As of 2003, the United States was still spending only about 0.14 per cent of its revenues on Third World development projects. Canada was only marginally better at 0.26 per cent. Promising money is good politics, you see. Actually spending it is bad fiscal policy.

If politicians were capable of thinking beyond their next budget, they might see



# DYING TO VOTE

Despite the dangers, Iraqis are struggling for democracy—with Canadian help

**PATRICK BOYER** is a veteran of what passes for ballot-box conflict in Canada. He was elected as the Conservative MP for a Toronto riding in Brian Mulroney's 1984 landslide, then defeated when the Tories were all but wiped out under Kim Campbell in 1993. But Boyer recently met some politicians who would view any of his Canadian electoral battles as a walk in the park: members of Iraq's newly formed parties. He spent a week in Baghdad last month—much of it outside the relative safety of the so-called Green Zone heavily fortified by U.S. forces—helping the Iraqis prepare for their planned Jan. 30 election.

While he was there, three Iraq election of feds were dragged from their car on a busy Baghdad street and shot dead by insurgents trying to derail the vote. No wonder Boyer came home full of admiration for Iraq's would-be democrats. "Numbers of them are being murdered, both candidates and officials," he said. "But they've got their brochures, they've got their websites, they've got their campaign posters up."

Boyer is one of a handful of Canadians with recent first-hand experience of Baghdad's embryonic democratic political culture. Having declined to join the U.S.-led coalition that toppled Saddam Hussein, Ottawa has had little involvement with post-invasion Iraq. The federal government posts part-time Foreign Affairs officials in the strife-torn country, along with a single RCMP officer. Still, a modest Canadian presence has emerged around the notoriously difficult preparations for the election. The first high-profile Canadian engagement came last last month when Elections Canada took on the leadership of an international group that will try to assist the voting. Far less well known are the activities of Canadians working privately with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, a Washington-based organization that is an Iraq training decision makers and helping new parties get up and running. It was NDI that took Boyer to

Baghdad from Dec. 15 to 22, along with University of Toronto political science professor Daniel Cameron.

NDI is an independent, non-profit group that promotes democracy around the world. Its allegiance with the U.S. Democratic party, accepts funding from the U.S. government, and is a feature of the Washington political

establishment, with many prominent Democrats serving on its board. Perhaps surprisingly, Canadians hold some key NDI positions, particularly when it comes to its activities in Iraq. The system's director of programs in the Middle East and North Africa is Lenka Campbell, a former New Democratic Party strategist who served as Audrey McLaughlin's chief of staff when she was NDP leader. And NDI's resident senior country director in Iraq is James LeBlanc, who was chief of staff to Barbara McDougall when she was Mulroney's minister of external affairs.

Campbell estimates there are more than two dozen core Canadians on NDI's staff, and says the group has taken a steady, though entirely unpublicized, stream of current and former Canadian politicians and party organizers in Iraq since Saddam's fall. The Canadians have worked with Iraqis who are trying to establish democratic parties and government institutions. "We're people who love politics, love government," Campbell said in a telephone interview from Jerusalem



last week, where he was helping monitor the Palestinian election. "With NDI, we get to go to places like Iraq to pursue what we love anyway."

Boyer has worked before on political reform projects in countries like Thailand and Vietnam, but says the Iraq experience was unique. He was approached because of his combination of hands-on political

experience and a background teaching politics and law to senior Canadian law students over the past decade. Many of the themes at play in Iraq fit with his interests, but he was drawn by the danger involved in an illegally visiting Baghdad. "Before I went, friends of mine were calling and saying, 'How insane are you?'" he says. "I could have

found lots of excuses to say no. But I think I would have gone through the rest of my life as a hollow man. I talk a lot about democracy, but nobody runs the risk of being killed for this here." In Baghdad, he travelled in an armoured vehicle, wore a bulletproof vest, and was protected by a private security detail made up of former members of the

French Foreign Legion and South Africa's security services. He helped run workshops for three of the new Iraqi parties, and also took part in discussions on constitutional issues with senior officials in Iraq's interim government.

Political science professor Cameron says he was asked to go to Iraq because of his expertise in federations. Iraqis are debating how much regional autonomy to build into their system, and Cameron says the Canadian model, particularly Quebec's position, is of special interest. "We did a Federation 101 routine for 50 or 60 party activists," he said. But the nuances of the Iraq debate confound even the most experienced observers. Cameron clearly made less of an impression on Cameron than the sheer guts needed for those party members to attend the session. Merely participating in a campaign in Iraq is a tragedy. "It's very humbling," Cameron said, "to see the countless minor acts of courage on the part of people who are trying to do something out of the mass line in it." Despite the daily accounts of terror attacks aimed to prevent the election, Cameron says his brief experience in Baghdad made him more optimistic about Iraq's future. "The only way the insurgency is going to be put down is by the Iraqis themselves, not by the Americans," he said. "And for that to happen, there has to be an elected Iraqi government."

None of the Canadians involved in Iraq is under any illusion that the road ahead can be anything but treacherous. For all that he admires Iraq's brave-up-the-sword, Boyer acknowledges that the rebellion group opposing them could well prevail. "This could be a descending spiral where everything disintegrates, or it could start to come up and improve," he said. Whatever the outcome, he will be among the few Canadians with a first-hand tale to tell about how democracy failed in a dangerous place at a defining moment. **FI**





## Environment

**WHEN BLAIR BOONE WALKED** away from Cape Breton's coal mines, he thought it was forever. It was December 2001, and the government-owned Cape Breton Development Corp. had just shut down the last of its Nova Scotia collieries due to chronically bad financial performance. Global coal prices had been on a slide for years, and it seemed the world was headed for a future dominated by cleaner fuels like natural gas and environmentally safe energy sources such as solar and wind power. Dirty to burn, dangerous to mine and increasingly unprofitable to sell, coal was considered a fuel of the past. Boone, a mining technologist specializing in underground ventilation, was among the final group of 440

men to be let go. And when they walked out of the depths in May three years ago, they left behind a local industry that dated back to 1776, employed 12,000 at its peak, and claimed 7,600 lives along the way. King Coal's reign in Nova Scotia was over.

Or so everyone thought.

They hadn't counted on east Asia going middle class, or the United States re-embracing cheap, abundant fuel sources. In the past

12 months, the global coal market has staged a recovery that is nothing short of stunning. Exploding economic growth in China and India has sharply increased demand for coal-fed power and steel there, reversing the long, downward trajectory of coal prices. At the same time, the rising cost of natural gas has forced utilities in the U.S. and elsewhere to return to coal as a major source of fuel for electricity generation. As a result, a commodity that was selling for less than US\$40 a tonne a couple of years ago is now fetching more than US\$125, and analysts expect another healthy jump in price this year. Suddenly, coal is a fuel with a big future—and all those dead coal mines in places like Cape Breton and northeastern British Columbia are showing new signs of life.

China's booming industry is credited to the dirtiest fuel—but so is the rest of the world.

Boone and 25 of his fellow miners recently formed a co-operative and, together with Vancouver-based Hillbush Research, hopes to re-open the Donkin mine, just east of Glace Bay, N.S.—a network of abandoned tunnels with access to about 200 million tonnes of coal, as veins stretching out for miles beneath the Atlantic Ocean. Each man has pledged \$20,000 of his own savings for a small stake in the \$100-million project, which

**IN THE** past 12 months, the global coal market has staged a recovery that's nothing short of stunning

would create up to 250 jobs at the mine and smelter power plant. For every one of those positions, there are hopes for five small jobs in the surrounding communities. "It'll put a tremendous boost in the people here," Boone says. "We'd go back underground tonight if there was a shift and we got the call."

But Boone knows it's not that simple. It never is when it comes to coal. The coal industry's resurgence presents a paradox for nations like Canada. On the one hand, as a major exporter of coal, the country stands to benefit enormously from the boom. But that prosperity comes at a heavy cost: it means the world's addiction to the dirtiest of all industrial fuels will deepen. And soon, greenhouse gas emissions, the spread of toxic metals like mercury, a rise in respiratory illnesses—these are all byproducts of coal-fueled growth. They threaten to derail environmental efforts that Canada has helped

# WILL COAL BURY KYOTO?

The good news: Asia's hunger for coal is reviving mines in eastern and western Canada. The bad news: we may be facing an environmental calamity. By STEVE MAICH

champion around the world, such as the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions. Advocates for the environment realize we can't stop the developing world from using a fuel that helped the West get rich, but they offer a stark warning: as a wealthy country, we act quickly to deploy cleaner coal technologies, global agreements like Kyoto will stand as hollow symbols of the failure to vision an ecological disaster. "I go to bed at night worried about this," says John Thompson, who lives with the Illinois-based Clean Air Task Force. "I believe in renewable, and wind power and solar. But if we don't change the course of coal, we will lose. Global climate change will be something we can't do anything about."

**UNTIL LAST YEAR**, China was among the world's major exporters of coal. Like the United States, Australia and Canada, it's blessed with huge supplies of hard black rock formed over millions of years in ancient peat bogs decayed and compressed. But as its awakening middle class builds houses, buys cars and joins the world's consumer culture, China's demand for electricity and steel—most of which is forged in furnaces fueled by high-grade coal—has surpassed the capacity of its mining industry. The result: the country now risks losing the world's top coal exporters. It has roughly 2,000 coal-fired power plants, and there are plans to double generating capacity in the next 15 years. Maybe the new plants will rely on coal combustion, too.

But China isn't the only place with a mounting hunger for coal. Worldwide, coal consumption is projected to rise by 44 per cent between 2000 and 2025, and some of that increase is courtesy of the West. Coal plants still provide 48 per cent of North America's electricity. In the U.S., there are roughly 106 new plants awaiting approval from local and state governments. Five Canadian provinces—Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick—still burn coal for power. The Ontario government has promised to close its remaining coal plants by 2007, but some observers doubt it can meet that deadline while satisfying the province's power needs. And B.C. has said it will consider coal if and when it adds generating capacity.

In all, it amounts to arguably the biggest threat to the global environment and its population, because coal pollution takes

## CLEAN TECHNOLOGY FOR A DIRTY FUEL

**IN THE RACE** to mitigate coal's deadly effects on the environment, three main technologies have emerged. While they're promising, Alan Hogue with the Union of Concerned Scientists warns that "coal will always have permanent and irreversible damaging impact on land and water."

### SOLUBLE

A range of technologies that work inside coal-burning power plants to filter out contaminants such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. Most use crushed limestone with water and then spray the mixture into the gases produced by coal burning, sulfur particles bond with the limestone, creating a paste that's then digested at 100s gets broken down into non-polluting nitrogen and oxygen by spraying catalyst chemicals.

**PRO:** Several methods already exist that can eliminate close to 50 per cent of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions. Others can filter out toxic metals such as mercury from plant exhaust.

**CONS:** Scrubbers cannot reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Despite wide availability, the technology is used in only about a quarter of U.S. plants because regulations exempt plants built prior to 1970, and because burning higher grades of coal can often satisfy pollution limits. In

China, where enforcement of environmental rules is inconsistent, only five per cent of plants use the equipment.

### IGCC SYSTEM

IGCC, for Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle, is a system of power generation that chemically converts coal into a fuel called syngas, stripping out harmful chemicals before the fuel is then burned in much the same way natural gas would be.

**PRO:** IGCC power plants are almost as clean as natural gas plants.

**CONS:** The technology is fundamentally different from and more expensive to operate than traditional coal plants, making the industry reluctant to adopt it. IGCC plants still produce large amounts of carbon dioxide.

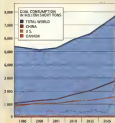
### CARBON SEQUESTRATION

A process by which machinery cools waste gases and absorbs carbon dioxide before it is released into the atmosphere.

**PRO:** When used in conjunction with IGCC technology, it can virtually eliminate the release of greenhouse gases into the air.

**CONS:** Commercially unproven. Very expensive to deploy. Questions remain about how to dispose of the trapped CO<sub>2</sub> (some have suggested compressing it into a liquid and injecting it into underground aquifers). SM

## HEATING UP: COAL USAGE ...



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration/International Energy Outlook 2008

## AND EMISSIONS

In addition to higher emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, coal-fired power plants release more CO<sub>2</sub> than any other major fuel source for electricity generation.



IN 60 PER MEGAWATT HOUR

Source: International Energy Agency



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# On a backyard rink, every kid's a superstar

The Home Depot® and Dan Craig, the Official Ice Maker® of the NHL, have teamed up to show you how to turn your backyard into a rink in just four easy steps.

## 1. Plan your rink

Choose a flat shaded spot, close to a source of water and a source of light for night skating. Measure the dimensions, stake out the rink perimeter and you're ready to build.

## 2. Prepare

Visit The Home Depot to pick up materials. You'll find the list of everything you'll need at [homedepot.ca](http://homedepot.ca). Assemble a wood frame. Then, lay a tarp. Here, Dan is tying a white tarp to protect the grass and keep the ice smooth.

## 3. Patience

Dan recommends waiting until temperatures reach -10°C to flood the rink. Spray with thin layers of water, using the fine-spray nozzle of your hose to keep the surface smooth. You'll need several thin layers to make a good 2" thick. Dan recommends a minimum 2.5cm base.



## 4. Play on!

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# GOLDEN GLORIES

Fast, skilled and spirited, Canada's juniors had it all

WHEN THE CANADIAN PLAYERS skated onto the ice for the third period of the final at the world junior championships, they weren't really playing for gold medals anymore—with a 6-1 lead over a downcast Russian team, the gold was a done deal. No, these Canadian teenagers in Grand Forks, N.D., were playing for their place in history. They didn't really go through the motions over the final 20 minutes—any player doing that would have incurred the wrath of Canadian coach Brent Sutter, one of the sprawling clan of no-nonsense Sutters of Viking, Alta. The Canadian juniors continued to grind away, to chase down any loose puck, to hit any Russian who might have his head down, to

relentlessly defend their blue line. They just didn't run up the score.

That they exhibited a quality they had concealed throughout the tournament and that will only enhance their legacy. Mercy.

Who'd have guessed it of you? While Canada had captured the world under-20

**'THEY'VE** played as well as any Canadian team, ever,' Gretzky said of the champions, who outscored their opponents 41-7

tournament 10 times before, including five straight in the mid-'90s, none of the nation's teams had ever won as decisively as this one. The 2005 juniors plowed through their schedule undefeated and unchallenged. They never trailed over three games, outscoring opponents 41-7. Sutter talked about his team "striving for perfection," but redemption was on the minds of 11 players in the lineup for the final—resurrected from last year's squad who squandered a two-goal lead in the gold medal game against the U.S. "I can't remember seeing a team more ready to win," said Ottawa-Senator director of player personnel Anders Ivarsson. Or as one NHL

scout put it mid-tournament: "The rest of the teams are intimidated. They're beaten before the puck is dropped."

It's a glorious time for Canadian hockey, which just five years ago was caught up in a state of national soul-searching over the state of the game. The men's and women's

teams came back with gold from the Salt Lake City Olympics in 2002. Canadian men have won the last two world championships, while Canadian women have won every world championships ever staged. And last September Canada skated to the title at the World Cup of Hockey—just before commissioner Gary Bettman and the owners who employ him shut down the National Hockey League. A certain irony there: luminous victories on international ice, lights out in NHL arenas.

But far off the trophies, none was more as emphatic as what the juniors brought in North Dakota. "They've played as well as any Canadian team, ever," said Wayne Gretzky.



It didn't hurt that, while ostensibly a road team, the Canadians were effectively at home. In the parking lot on the University of North Dakota campus, there were three Manitoba Mosaic places for every local one. A flag, draped, fire-painted, thingy owned the sponsor, the Ralph Engelstad Arena, a far-flung suburb of Winnipeg, with signage for its western running a distant second to licensed products from Hockey Canada.

Nor was there any sign of the unrelenting Canadian inferiority complex, a nagging notion that European nations do a better job developing skills in young players. In recent years the Canadian junior team's performance caused a lot of hand-wringing by fans and hockey editors alike. In 1999, it prompted a Hockey Canada despair-fest called the Open Ice Summit. Many well-intentioned recommendations emerged, including increasing the ratio of practices to games and raising the draft age for players entering the major junior ranks. While Hockey Canada deserves praise for its work in training coaches, change has been slow at the grassroots level, and player development looks much the same as it did a decade ago. Many youth league teams still schedule more games than practices, and the notion of raising draft ages was never going to fly. Still, the much vaunted European coaches might well call for their own two-hall meetings and white papers after watching

Captain Mike Richards hoists the cup at a North Dakota arena packed with Canadians.

the Canadian game's version on display in Grand Falls. The decisive moment of the final featured its two most talked-about prospects in an unexpected confrontation. Suter had the last change, meaning he could reach his top-defensive pair, Dion Phaneuf and Shea Weber, against Russia's Alexei Ovechkin, the winger selected first overall by the Washington Capitals in last year's NHL Entry Draft. Everyone awaited a showdown between Phaneuf, who would be named the tournament's top defenceman, and Ovechkin, who, before the big game, proudly declared that "Canada is not God."

But in the early going, Ovechkin met his on-ice rival—*not* Phaneuf but Sidney Crosby, the 17-year-old prodigy from Cole Harbour, N.S. Ovechkin pulled up at the Canadian blue line and veered to the centre of the ice, away from Phaneuf but squarely and blindly into the oncoming Crosby. Though Crosby is four inches shorter than



**WHAT** happened to the nagging notion that European nations do a better job of developing skills in young players?

Ovechkin and, by conservative estimates, 25 pounds lighter, he drilled the Russian. Ovechkin, who would play only a few more shifts in the game and have his right arm in a sling afterwards, looked back disbelievably at Crosby, as if he couldn't imagine that a headliner would do heavy lifting.

It shouldn't have been a surprise, though. Since taking on 32 players just a few weeks earlier, Suter insulted an ethic of team play and sacrifice. The worst of experience in the dressing room was Patrick Bergeron, who at 18 played last year with the Boston Bruins and on the Canadian squad that won the world championship. "I've played on junior teams and an NHL team," and Bergeron, who led the tournament in scoring and was named its most valuable player, "This must have been like a professional team than those other I played with back in the Quebec League. Everyone is so much more focused and serious. It's all business for us."

Even to fly over country, far from the NHL, there was an escaping the business of the game. Jonathan Levis is a Grand Falls fan for the final, but elected not to speak to the



Goalie Jeff Glass returns to Calgary, Crosby celebrates after decisive scores on the Russians.

press. He was rocking like Ovechkin—*Real World* magazine had just named him to its 100 best managers list. He sat in a private box with Rene Fasel, boss of the International Ice Hockey Federation. They almost certainly discussed the manner of the NHL's participation in the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, which would be threatened if the league can't guarantee an end to the lock-out. Meanwhile, Crosby, a son-owner of the Phoenix Coyotes, criticised absent during term feature of the Canadian junior—but

suggested they might not have a league to play in next fall. "If it's not decided in the next few days," he said, "we could be looking at a year, or a year and a half."

The Canadian players were too busy enjoying their glorious presence to give much thought to the far-off future. "We all feel like we've been a part of something special here," said Corey Perry, who played on a line with Bergeron and Crosby, "and we'll have memories and friendships that will last the rest of our lives." ■

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# NEW DIETS

## After Atkins, what's next?

As the low-carb craze fades, six new plans vie to take its place. What's healthy, what works, and what's best for you.

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# Low-Carb Lanent

Feeling restricted, bored and worried about their health, dieters are losing the love for Atkinyle plans, says LIANNE GEORGE

NICOLE KUTNEY, a 31-year-old radical sales representative from London, Ont., committed to low-carb dieting three times. Each time she lost 30 pounds. And each time she gained the weight right back. "It works and it works fast," she says of the regimen, "but it's impossible to stick to it. It's just too boring." After weeks of protein-heavy meals, she'd find herself reconsidering low-fat plans like Weight Watchers or Jenny Craig. "At least

they let you have a little cookie or a brownie every once in a while."

Signs that the public's enthusiasm for low-carb dieting is waning are everywhere. According to U.S. studies, up to 50 percent of Americans have tried low-carb diets in recent years, but almost half have given them up. Books like *Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* and *The Zone*, which once peaked bestseller lists for much of 2003, have quietly bowed out of the Top 10. And sales of the thousands of newly launched low-carb food products have stalled. It appears that for a growing number of people, the

diets heralded by celebrities as the key to boundless energy and a bodacious bod have proven to be a massive disappointment.

## "TOXIC EFFECT" ON HEALTH

The philosophy behind Atkins and related diets is first, by lowering your intake of carbohydrate-rich foods such as breads and pasta, your body will begin to burn stored

fat for energy—a process called ketosis. Studies have shown that this type of diet does indeed result in fat and often significant weight loss, but even so, the Atkins trend exploded in the late '90s (the concept is actually 30 years old), health and nutrition experts have warned that it's the dietary equivalent of a get-rich-quick scheme.

"Ketosis is a toxic effect and that's why you have the rapid weight loss, because your body is purging a lot of water to get the moisture—up 30 pounds initially," says Toronto food trends expert Dana McCauley. "It's not a meaningful weight loss, and it's very hard on your body." By cutting out an entire food group, experts warn, you're foregoing essential nutrients such as fiber, iron, B vitamins and fatty acid. What's more, according to Indian

group Diagnostics of Canada, "Low-carb diets tend to eat

high-fat, high-cholesterol foods, which in turn increases their risk of heart and kidney diseases, bone mineral loss, high blood pressure and goes—most in women: bad breath, constipation, fatigue and headaches.

Even the men hand-grated by Atkins Nutritionals—the licensed purveyor of Atkins-brand foods and supplements—to test its products doesn't support low-carb plans. Dr. Thomas Wolever, a renowned expert in dietary carbohydrates at the University of Toronto, was asked to reassess the glycemic impact of dozens of Atkins' products to lend scientific validity to their labeling claims. "I have a lot of respect for the company because they want to make products that will do what they say they're going to do," says Wolever. But he adds, "I don't think it's a particularly healthy diet."

Health concerns aside, people are getting turned off by the heavy commitment and constraints demanded by many of the popular plans. Some of the most confounding and simple foods—including breads, pasta and even corn (fruits and vegetables are largely off-limits). Many dieters struggle with this, says Toronto dietitian Rosie Schwartz, and even start to fantasize these foods. "It becomes sort of a binge mentality," she says. "People think, 'I'm not going to eat carbs.' So when they're eating some potato chips or a piece of cake, they figure, 'Well, I've broken it. Tomorrow I'll go back to not eating carbs, so I'd better get them all in today.'"

Even without support of low-carb as a long-term diet, the diet isn't for everyone. Karm Rasmay, a Vancouver chef, has been on a low-carb diet for five years and has lost 70 pounds. "I can handle all the time now," says Rasmay, who recently published the cookbook *Low Carb Gourmet*. But she cautions: "I'd recommend to people who are really serious about changing



## BREAD'S COMEBACK

New reasons to love the ultimate carb

"Whereas even 10 years ago almost half of bread consumption was white bread, now it's less than a third," says Connie McElroy, vice-president of marketing for Canada Bread Co. Today's consumers prefer loaves that look home-made, even rustic, filled with seeds and variety of textures. They're better educated about the health benefits of bread as a source of complex carbs, fibre, protein, B vitamins and iron. And they're willing to spend a little more for it.

"When we started in 1952, our bread seemed very expensive," says Linda Haynes, co-founder of Acc Bakery in Toronto, which now distributes its goods to supermarkets, hotels and restaurants. "But today, people care more about what they eat. They're more willing to treat themselves, whether it's to a nice wine, olive oil or a loaf of bread."

Stroll down your grocery's baked-goods aisle and you'll find a much broader selection than ever before, some of it delivered

HAS THERE EVER been a food more wholesome, more packed with nutrients and freer from the evils glutenists than bread? And yet ever since the low-carb trend took hold, bread has become target of a commercial smear campaign. Atkins and South Beach advocates have berated protein-rich breads as the wacky dieters' version of choice. Bread, they warn, will make you fat. In 2003, U.S. bread consumption dropped by 2.3 per cent. QED: The Canadian industry found slightly better, down only one per cent, combining a

Still, for bread lovers, the low-carb mania has produced an unexpected benefit. Breadmakers, forced to innovate in order to entice wary consumers, have introduced a slew of textures, higher quality grains, which also happen to taste better.

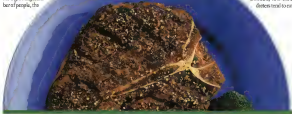
"The low-carb movement really made people understand that not all carbohydrates are created equal," says Amy Snider, a Toronto food consultant and author of the cookbook *Fiberfast*. While we have not stopped eating carbs, our consumption has shifted dramatically toward "good carbs," such as whole wheat and organic breads.

**"Loaves made with unusual ingredients such as spelt and quinoa offer both nutritional benefits and unique taste"**

fresh from local artisan bakers. There are breads made with unusual ingredients like spelt, flax and quinoa that offer both nutritional benefits (they contribute to cholesterol-fighting power) and unique taste. Many are organic, produced without refined sugars or bleached flours. Even mountain breads now offer healthy fats, such as Dempster's whole grains.

At the same time, cutting out all carbohydrates is waning as a made people understand that not all carbohydrates are created equal. A recent study found that, in moderation, eating whole grains may actually help ward off the pounds. Bread—"good" bread, that is—may not be your enemy after all. That slab of butter sitting next to it, however, is another story.

L.G.



**LEARN MORE** [www.cbc.ca/resources](http://www.cbc.ca/resources) centre for Canadian living topics, list or simply support for low-carb living. **THE PATHWAY OF AMERICA** The PBS television documentary explores the roots of the North American identity and the low-carb

trend. See it online at [www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca). **ATKINS** *Randomized Trial of a Low-Carbohydrate Diet for Obesity*. This 2003 New England Journal of Medicine study found that low-carb diets are effective for short-term but not long-term weight loss. **LOW CARB AND LOWER** In: On

the Food Network Canada program, chef George Stella addresses the most common complaint of low-carb dieters: dietary boredom. **THE ZONE** A classic read by Canadian author John Berardi about a woman "trapped on a carb-eating merry-go-round."





## MAY 2008 ■ JOURNAL OF CLIMATE 2095



# BULLISH WOOLLIES

Knitting is on a roll as young hipsters across the country—including some men—reinvent the craft

**KNIT TWO, PURL TWO,** cickety-clack. There's something mesmerizing about knitting. But the guy beside me on the subway conjuring up a sock from a strand of teal Mac yarn isn't likely to drift into a trance. Three years after learning to knit, Rand Orzechowski still has to focus on frugging the wool around the needles. "I tried to knit without looking," says the 23-year-old student at Toronto's York University. "I could do it, but I had to concentrate even more." A sock presents an exceptional challenge: First, there's the master

of a tube-like form requiring four, not two, needles, then there's the heel, achieved by an awkward device of dropped and regained stitches. This is Orzechowski's third attempt. His two previous efforts have become arm bands. "I never destroy what I've done," he disdains. "I just can't do it."

Reverence for the woolly craft is deeply on the rise. Across Canada, a swarm of 2.3 million knitters, the knee-banded bee moving with the amble-flagger in knitting churches or schools, church basements, campus dorms and coffee shops. A recent Craft Yarn Council of America survey found that the number of people who knit and crochet doubled between 1994 and 2002. Aging baby boomers returning to the craft they learned in childhood are a big part of that may. But the real momentum comes from a younger, hipper crowd. Kids, teens and twentysomethings are passing over pastel baby bonnets, Icelandic sweaters and synthetic booties in favor of bold, edgy patterns with names like Big Bad Bitchy or Only Bitches. A gender shift may also be under way: Orzechowski just received a tiny amulet, but men who knit, observe some needlework aficionados, are a growing presence in guilds, yarn shops, knitting blogs and other Internet sites. Proudly known as the rage, but there's

more to this upswing than just fashion. Cynthia MacDougall, Barrie, Ont.-based head of the Canadian Guild of Knitters, attributes to our high-tech, consumer-oriented culture. "People want to balance the fast-paced world of computers with a peaceful, tactile activity," she says. Catherine Myhr, creative and marketing director of Laidlow, Ont.-based Spruce Life, one of North America's largest craft yarn manufacturers, agrees. "In the 1980s, women were into obsessive, slow things like scribbles," she says. "Now it's yoga and kinder, gentler means of self fulfillment and creativity—part of a conscious sensibility that WWII and the U.S. war in Iraq have helped perpetuate."

**PEOPLE want to balance fast-paced, high-tech, consumer culture with a peaceful, tactile and creative activity**

the political and spiritual. Well, Myhr isn't the only one to connect those dots. Kris Dunn, a Toronto actor, has been chomping on needles since his first pickup at a set of needles in 1988. He was so taken by the design potential of the craft that he flew to



London in 1996 to apprentice with ground-breaking textile artist Kaffe Fassett. On his return, Dunn donated up and secured \$45,000 for an ambitious project: an eye-opening "stained glass" triptych and screens that explore the points at which Judaism, Christianity and Islam converge and conflict. (He achieves a cathedral window effect by knitting needle-patched in rich color-matched in black and metallic yarn.) "It's about the paradox of religion and war," he says. "They all preach love and respect, and then kill each other." The first panel depicting Christianity is now finished, but the knitted tapestry has already gained interest at the Toronto Jewish Museum of Canada and the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

It's hard to think of a better medium to make a point about community—which is why knitting is a compelling pastime for some political activists. Members of the international Revolutionary Knitting Circle regularly show up to protest war, GI meetings and environmental damage done



by logging companies, with knitted banners, peace arm bands and "tree cookies." The network's Production of Constructive Revolution isn't "so care off dependencies around global trade" by advocating small-scale, local production and trade.

Meanwhile, Debbie Stoller, editor of the New York-based magazine *Knit*, adds a final twist to knitting, urging women should "take back the knit." Frustrated in the 1970s "that was knitting for men the things women had traditionally done," she notes

Orzechowski, Toronto's Red Coat (below). It's a gateway to community, relaxation

"Thirty years on, we're saying, 'Wow, someone, child rearing, cooking, cleaning, needlework all take skill.'" Hoping to spread some of these virtues around, she started a Statch 'N Ditch knitting club in 1999. Today, there are more than 160 groups from Toronto to Winnipeg, and Stoller has just published *Statch 'N Ditch* Nation, a follow-up to her bestselling 2003 title, *Statch 'N Ditch*, and one of several new how-to books.

But if knitting has a subversive side, the trend is hardly unravelling: the system-yarn manufacturers are thriving, with their products available in Zellers and Old Mac's, and over the Internet. New macrofibre technology, explains Sharon Asher, Toronto editor of the online magazine *KnitNet*, has also put novelty yarns on the market that are more appealing than earlier synthetics. Meanwhile, farms raising alpacas, llamas and exotic goats for fibre—and reeling spinning such raw material—have emerged to serve a more upscale niche market. A host of publications are also cashing in on the knitting frenzy, offering advice, patterns and human stories. The craft has even inspired a novel. Australian writer Anne Bamford's *Knitting* will be published by Houghton Mifflin this spring. And in 2005, Langley, B.C., store Debbie Emms opened a "knitting cafe" in a small strip mall. (The similar but unrelated Red Coat started up on Toronto's hip Queen Street West in October.) It's a cozy establishment with warm yellow walls, wood-paneled beams and four lamp-lit tables. Along with the usual coffee shop fare, items *Knit* sells wool and needlework accessories, while offering workshops on everything from spinning to needle-finish. Business, she says, "has been very, very good."

About a tenth of Emms' customers are men—a far cry from pre-industrial times, when knitting was largely a male trade. Toronto's Orzechowski doesn't have time for knitting after or before class. And although he does attend anti-globalization protests, he doesn't take up the craft to make statements about capitalism or gender—he simply enjoys creating something he can use. So Orzechowski has set himself a challenge: "When I finish my undergrad, I'll be wearing nothing but my own socks." With three years left, he said he has time to master the heel. ■



## IT'S ALWAYS 'GET SHORTY!'

I wanted to be in the movies, but soon discovered that I was 'too tall'

**AN EXPERIENCE** on the set for the feature film *Capote*, which recently wrapped up shooting in Winnipeg, has revived traumatic memories—and reminded me how brilliantly the classic comedy *Twelve Cents* captures the actor's life. In that 1962 movie, Dustin Hoffman is a struggling New York actor who finally scores big on a TV soap opera by posing himself as a woman. Early on we see him facing rejection after rejection at auditions. "We're looking for someone shorter," he's told. Another time it's "We're looking for someone taller." And finally the truth: "We're looking for someone else." That sequence, in fact, reflected

the early years of Hoffman's own professional life: working as a toy salesman and as a waiter while waiting for his big break. The apologetic short and not leading-man handsome, he finally got his breakthrough role, at age 30, in the 1967 hit, *The Graduate*. But for every Dustin Hoffman there are literally thousands of others who never get that break, and who deal with rejection at most daily. I know a myth of what they feel.

Growing up in the 1950s and '60s, I was addicted to the movies. I would walk like

Sean Connery or John Wayne when leaving the theatre after watching their last picture. Despite being painfully shy, I wanted to be a performer in the worst way. Finally, in 1967, in my second year at St. John's College in Winnipeg, my opportunity came in a one-act play, *The Graduate*. Rarely, I was one of the not-so-grooving relatives of a man who lays a coffin in a funeral parlor. Our little production was entered in a drama festival involving several faculties. The adjudicator was an erudite British lady who worked at Manitoba Theatre Centre. I have never looked her name out of my memory, but I will never be able to forget her words in the farewell but palpable of our effort: "It was unfortunate," she declared, "that one of the actors was so much taller than the others."

There it was, I was too tall to be an actor. For this reason, I made a little over 6 feet 5. This is virtually the same height as Tim Robbins and Vince Vaughn and, for that matter, only about an inch taller than my hero, Wayne, but they seem to be exceptions

Successful male stage and film actors tend to be fairly average in height—which means somewhere between 5 foot 9 and 6 feet

So while I sometimes fantasized about acting, I put it out of my mind as an actual career possibility. Instead, I've carved out a very successful life in radio, as a news person and later as a program host, where I get to be a performer in a different sort. And what a wonderful and satisfying career it has been. It has included conversations with many actors over the years, which inevitably

speaking part) in *Capote*. The movie takes place when Truman Capote was writing his famous non-fiction novel, *In Cold Blood*, about the gruesome 1959 murders of a Kansas family. Starring Philip Seymour Hoffman (no relation to Dustin) as the eccentric author, it details the crime, its investigation and Capote's unusual friendship with one of the killers, Perry Smith. I didn't get the speaking part, but I was cast for a featured background role as a plain-clothes officer with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. A sort of glorified extra, KBI Durr had no lines, but because the character had a name, it would probably mean a screen credit in a movie that is generating buzz even before its release date is set.

Apparently there was some thought this year to make the 5-foot-10 Hoffman-spear more like the real-life Capote, who stood just 5 foot 3, was to put on the actor, whenever possible, heads people who are up reliably taller. Whatever the truth of that story, after I had been shooting for just two days, Durr was written out of the script. I was told—sort of by a—"You are just too tall." Thirty-seven years have passed and nothing has changed.

I will per over the rejection. For one reason, I found it truly fascinating to observe the

ing order on the set. Leading actors like Hoffman and Oscar winner Chris Cooper, who plays the top cop, made no claim to be a bubble. The director and crew spoke to them with considerable deference. It was rare that the stars mangled, or even acknowledged the camera as human beings. In fact, when the assistant director brings on the extras as they're preparing for a shot, it's known as "choosing the cast." We're basically just another sort of prop, meant to fade into the background and for that, I am too tall. **E**

Reger Centre is a Winnipeg writer and broadcast producer. He can be reached at roger@rogercubber.com.



# BACKTALK

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## David Hearn is taking his clubs into battle with golf's Goliaths

Brantford, Ont., makes a cut to tee off his rookie campaign on the 2005 PGA tour

Even though David Hearn grew up a few blocks from Wayne Gretzky's childhood home in Brantford, Ont., he never aspired to be the Great One. "I wasn't a real big kid so I gave up hockey when I was about 11 and dedicated myself to golf," says Hearn, now 25 and considered by experts to be Canada's best golfing prospect in years. "I was hitting yards and balls at it, I was on a course by 7 and playing in tournaments when I was 10. I'll never forget winning my first local tournament."

Although a thrill, that victory pales in

comparison to earning his 2005 PGA tour card—which Hearn did last month at qualifying school. And though he expects to make his debut at the Bank of Montreal's vision of the 2005 Canadian Open in June, the thought of facing off with golf's Goliaths doesn't seem to phase the 2002 Canadian Open rookie of the year. "When it comes down to it, it's the same old story," says Hearn, who competed on the Nationwide, Asian and Canadian tours last year. "It's all about performance—100 yards is 100 yards no matter where you play."

JOHN INTINI

## BUZZ LIST

**OLIVE KEEPER** (PG-13)  
 • **Keaton** as a woman who leads a leading lady to her death on *Deception* for the role of Lisa Lane in the upcoming blockbuster *Queen Bees*. The Daily Planet's never looked so good.

**DAVID HEARN**  
 • PGA tour rookie is ready to go on the road.

**REBECCA WOOD**

• **Kevin** as a woman who leads a leading lady to her death on *Deception* for the role of Lisa Lane in the upcoming blockbuster *Queen Bees*. The Daily Planet's never looked so good.

**WYNNE WEAVER**

• **Pop** act is planning to turn it into a full-length feature film. *Kevin* as a woman who leads a leading lady to her death on *Deception* for the role of Lisa Lane in the upcoming blockbuster *Queen Bees*. The Daily Planet's never looked so good.

**JOHN INTINI**

• **For the** second time, Jennifer Schatz is on search of "true love" on reality TV. Twenty-five hopeful suitors.

ask a woman to make factors) has decided to try to win her affection and the attention of a good-looking agent.

**ONER EYE FOR THE**

• **After** a long time, a woman who leads a leading lady to her death on *Deception* for the role of Lisa Lane in the upcoming blockbuster *Queen Bees*. The Daily Planet's never looked so good.



## TV | The many faces of a deadly disease

AIDS has lost a lot of its shock value. The disease is no longer an automatic death sentence in the Western world thanks to treatments, which makes it easy to forget that tens of thousands of people die from AIDS every day in the developing world. This is just one of the points that the creators of *A Closer Walk* (Jan. 25, 7 p.m., CBS Newsweek) drive home in their powerful two-hour documentary. Hosted by actors Glenn Close and Will Smith, the TV special includes impassioned pleas from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, U2's Bono and The Black Lungs—all set against original music from Eric Clapton and Mary J. Blige. The video's basic line is the background: the strength of this project, which includes footage from four continents, are the victims' own stories, which show the unforgettable human face of AIDS. **DANIEL FRIED**

## Culture | What are you reading now?



Douglas Coupland is known for being culturally plugged-in. So we asked the Vancouver-based artist and writer, 41, who recently released his ninth book of fiction—*Microserenity*—for some recent favorites. **J.L.**

### BOOK THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT DOWN

"*Glenn Feld*, by David Mitchell. Massive in scope, it's about the past and the future and where culture ends and what remains once it's gone. Not the least bit science-fictionary, precious or gratuitously gloomy."

### NEW BAND THAT I CAN'T STOP LISTENING TO

"I think the day of discovering a brand new band is largely over. Everybody's a musical crossover now, young and old. What's interesting is that people over 40, who throughout the 20th century more or less stopped engaging with music, are back in the trenches experiencing music they never would have found sans Internet. For my right now it's 1990s feel-good bands like the new *Sevens*, as well as 1970s dinosaur rock like *Erasmus*, *Lake & Palmer*, which I didn't like when it first came out."

"MOVIE I'VE SEEN WAY TOO MANY TIMES AND STILL THINK IS GREAT: *Goldbrat*, with Tom Cruise, seems to be playing in every jet and hotel room on earth right now. This is great because I can watch the choreographed fight scene at the Los Angeles Karmen night club over and over and over."

### FAVORITE NEW WEBSITE

"I visit a site called *artnet.com*. It's the dirty secret of the art world. It shows where's showing what where, but it also says how much everything went for in auction. The site's money porn, and partially explains why the art world is so dirty."

**► MICROSERENITY** SOLD: More songs online in 2004 than any other act. The album was downloaded 380,000 times.



## Matt Dusk finishes John Intini's sentences

Matt Dusk is a throwback—with a passion for finely tailored suits and rat pack-era tunes. And jazz critics and fans took notice when the product of New York University's music program the attached master classes taught by jazz legend Oscar Peterson made his major-label debut last year with *Two Shots*. Book 26, recently finished *Microserenity* Assistant Editor John Intini's sentences.

THE TREND I DON'T UNDERSTAND: While the parade floats begin to head stars were during the '90s. I WAS LOST: Since after a gig in Hampton, I couldn't find a Tim Hortons so had to pull a cab-to take me to one. I RAINED INTO A \$14 cup of coffee. I COLLECT: All the notes people pass

me during shows and autograph sessions. I like to keep them as a record. THE LAST TIME I WAS NUMB: I was backstage at a show in Burlington, Wisconsin, in kitchen area, helped out on a bus on a last. The last thing the promoter asked was if I could still sing. WITH MY FIRST CHECKOUT FROM TWO SHOTS: I bought 10-inch brakes for a car I'm building. Quite a waste of money since I don't even have tires yet. THE MOST SILENT I'VE BEEN: Was watching *The Star* WWF Project. As bull, during my scary movie I cover my eyes and lie on the fetal position.

FOR MORE: JOHN INTINI'S SENTENCES: VISIT WWW.MATCDUSK.COM/PEOPLE

**► A CLEVELAND MAN** is using NBC for US\$2.5 million, claiming he lost time to watching contestants eat dual ribs on the network's show *Four Factor*.

## Books | The greatest craftsman of all time

Andrea Stralman (b. 1944 to 1977) spent most of his long and productive life in the small Italian town of Cinesole. He made over a thousand water, ink, and oil paintings, of which some still survive. They have changed hands for years, figures from because, as Toby Faber's charming *Andrea Stralman: An Introduction* (Mar. 2004) has ever equipped them for beauty and ease. For the past century, Stralman has struggled to discover Stralman's secrets. But although electronic microscopes and X-rays have revealed a first layer of violence in his work, and of violence, and even biochemical analysis showed the technical clarity of the Little Ice Age (1445 to 1750) never level, no chess or color and landscape effect has yet been proven. And beyond all technical questions there still lies the mysterious match of materials and creative genius, one that may never be seen again. **STRALEMAN'S** Toby Faber, **Price** \$24.95

## Best Sellers

Fiction	WEEKS ON LIST
1. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	1
2. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	2
3. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	3
4. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	4
5. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	5
6. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	6
7. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	7
8. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	8
9. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	9
10. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	10

## Non-fiction

1. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	1
2. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	2
3. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	3
4. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	4
5. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	5
6. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	6
7. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	7
8. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	8
9. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	9
10. <i>THE LAST THING HE SAW</i> by David Copperfield	10

1. *THE LAST THING HE SAW* by David Copperfield

John Intini | ON POP CULTURE



## The resourceful generation

Who cares if we get tripped up by *Trivial Pursuit* questions? What's smart is shifting

EXCEPT for the occasional game of Scrabble, I've never really enjoyed board games. So when friends reached for *Cranium* one night during the holidays, I wasn't exactly thrilled. The thing is, I especially dislike games that measure intelligence with a tiny plastic hemisphere and require participants to quickly retrieve generic facts, memorized from high-school history class, which may or may not be buried deep in their memory. It's a rather meaningless skill in a world where Google is god.

These are folks who've grown up in the Internet age, have—like us in our own minds—retroactively measured the meaning of intelligence. We've largely neglected our parents' traditional knowledge-based book smarts with resourceful access: the ability to navigate through reams of information quickly and efficiently and isolate what's important. Sure, we have more "formal" education than the generations that preceded us, but that doesn't make us any more capable of challenging the record recently set by *Jeopardy!* fan Jennings. We're smart enough to realize that it's impossible to know every-

thing we're confronted by the knowledge that a complete history of events from any century is just a mouse click away.

Then there are the studies that consistently show that reading literature is steadily declining—most notably among younger people. But that's no reason to call us intellectual slackers. There is a great deal to be said for the importance of reading the classics, but many under-30s (and more and more older groups) find the best way of understanding our world is not housed in the pages of a Charles Dickens novel. Many in the Reconstructed Generation are opting to use their time to read current fiction and literary essays from websites like *Literotary* and *McSweeney's* (*mcsweneeys.com*) and *Arts & Letters Daily* (*aldaily.com*). There is also concern over a decline in non-fiction reading. But that doesn't take into account that many young people are turning more often to the online scribbling of bloggers. Granted, there's plenty of crap to wade through, but there's also a great deal of fascinating debate and insight as history as it's happening—in daily e-news.

## 21st Century Brain



...which is easily mistaken as an indifference for history. That's not, we might not know the exact route Alexander the Great took in his quest for world domination (especially after watching *Gladiator* and doing a movie), but

we are confident in our ability to find information. So scrap that lab-bike like *Generation X*, Y and M Today's under-30s are the Reconstructed Generation. We're also a generation that craves the "new new thing"—which is easily mistaken as an indifference for history. That's not, we might not know the exact route Alexander the Great took in his quest for world domination (especially after watching *Gladiator* and doing a movie), but

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## Style | Vegan fashion

The choice wool sock and Benetton Mallespina sweater are bigger additions to the fashion arsenal. For one thing, more and more activists are turning away from animal-made clothing. But also, thanks to an increasing number of designers willing to do "cruelty-free" clothing and accessories, vegans can now cultivate their inner fashionista and still maintain a clear conscience.

Vegetarian "compassionate" clothing isn't made with any furs or fur-derived materials—meaning no wool, leather, silk, down or fur. But young veg designers are proving such garb can be stylish and elegant. "We're first and foremost a fashion company," says Indio Fendi of Mother's in Las Vegas, whose colorful faux-leather bags and footwear sell at Coterie and Browns shops. And since its company launched in 1997, it's been named by some big names—including *Vanity Fair* and *Teen* in how hot and hip-and-green denim McCartney.

In fact, the market is now growing to the point where you can buy vegan garb for shirts, sweatshirts, shoes, golf shoes, and even leather wear. With their innovative designs and use of materials, these firms are expanding the politically correct clothing market well beyond animal leathers. "About 10 percent of those who buy our products don't know they're vegans, and don't really care," says Indio. "It's not like old-style vegans, besides hairy—there's a lot of cool, sexy, free-living, and a healthy free-living."



## Money's Worth | Energy drinks

More bang for your soda bucks

In the '80s, energy drinks—soft drinks loaded with sugar and caffeine—became popular in rock culture among those looking for non-alcoholic fuel for all-night dancing. Among European club kids, it became trendy to mix the energy drink Red Bull with vodka to produce a high-octane cocktail. The drink has since branched out in France and Denmark, too. In part, it's its possible euphoric effects when mixed with alcohol that has made Red Bull a favorite among stars like Britney Spears, started togarner mainstream attention, soda companies have been scrambling to create their own versions. Today, energy drinks, which feature music graphics and names

like Monster and Rockstar, have supplanted bottled water as the fastest-growing beverage category in the U.S. In Canada, the sale of Red Bull was legalized last summer, paving the way for the strains of vendors now lining store shelves. We tested five brands. **JEFF WARREN**



**OUR PICK** While the others, which are pretty sweet, Soda America has a light citrus flavor.

RED BULL 250 ml / \$2.95	WW'S RAW ENERGY PINK GULP 1.06 l / \$2.49	MONSTER 473 ml / \$2.99	SODA AMERICA 250 ml / \$2.95	MINUTE GUARANA 1.06 l / \$2.95
<b>CALORIES/CAFFEINE</b>				
110 cal/80 mg (as low as Diet Coke) 29 mg	190 cal/65 mg	Average 120 cal. Caffeine content 160 mg (as low as)	140 cal/75 mg	120 cal/65 mg
<b>OTHER KEY INGREDIENTS</b>				
Vitamins B6 and B12	Caramels, a heavy sweet extract found in the Amazon that has a stimulating effect similar to caffeine.	Guarana, green guarana, and cacao, maca root, yucca root.	Guarana, green guarana, green extract, guarana, yucca root, guarana.	Guarana
<b>LABEL WARNINGS</b>				
"Do not consume more than 100 ml (3.3 fl. oz.) a day." "Not recommended for people sensitive to caffeine."	"Not recommended for children, pregnant women or people sensitive to caffeine."	"Limit 3 cans per day, not recommended for children, pregnant women or people sensitive to caffeine."	"Limit 3 cans per day, not recommended for children, pregnant women or people sensitive to caffeine."	"Limit 3 cans per day, not recommended for children, pregnant women or people sensitive to caffeine."
<b>TASTING NOTES</b>				
A diet cherry and citrus guava taste, it's smooth and fizzy like a citrus soda. Go vegans with the body!	More carbon candy flavor, better and that's a WW's-branded drink. Guava taste is pretty strong. There's a professional caffeine aftertaste.	Similar to Red Bull, but very sweet. Left a fairly strong aftertaste. Not recommended for children, pregnant women or people sensitive to caffeine.	Lighter, citrusy, green-tinted, guava-taste. Not as strong as the others.	Like a watermelon-flavored soda. Not as strong as the others.
<b>JOLT FACTOR</b>				
Drink first thing in the morning to jump-start effects of sleep deprivation. Prepared to bounce all night. Means no nap and still no bouncing.	If anything, all the sugar isn't doing much. Sleep deprivation. Prepared to bounce all night. Means no nap and still no bouncing.	Label suggests a post-workout drink. Not recommended for children, pregnant women or people sensitive to caffeine.	Label suggests a post-workout drink. Not recommended for children, pregnant women or people sensitive to caffeine.	Label suggests a post-workout drink. Not recommended for children, pregnant women or people sensitive to caffeine.
<b>VERDICT</b>				
For just Money's Worth you could test these, go to <a href="http://www.sodamoney.com">www.sodamoney.com</a>				



## What's in Store

JEFF's new *Coffine Energy* drum (250 ml) is loaded with heart-healthy ingredients and comes in four fresh, new flavors. At though it's currently unavailable here, Canadian lifestyle researchers have been experimenting with a similar product in Peta, Canada, designed to help soldiers stay alert.



THE *COFFINE* This drink is a mix of coffee and energy, but it won't last. In fact, coming down from all the sugar and caffeine will knock you out. If you're looking for the best way to stay alert, try a cup of coffee. Also, make sure to get a good night's sleep.



## SONGS FOR THE SUFFERING

The benefit concert has become an automatic response to disaster

THERE ARE DISCRETE rages in the response to any great global tragedy. Shock, first, then grief. Then a feeling of helplessness, which, in Canada, is usually expressed as indignation at the government. (In Canada, any strong feeling is expressed as indignation at the government, even when, as in the current instance, the government was simply doing its job properly. It's a weird custom, but we make it work for us. The indignation is followed, usually at not too great an interval, by the re-election of the government.)

There is an overpowering of sympathy and philanthropic duration. This makes Canada

are more or less the same as people around the world and is, therefore, widely interpreted as proof of our nation's unique virtue. There is an extended series of photo opportunities featuring the prime minister and assorted children.

Before very long, the response reaches its most public and its most expression-the before-own. On Jan. 18, Sarah McLachlan, Avril Lavigne and Baranok Ladies will rock Vancouver's General Motors Place in aid of Asian tsunami relief. Two days later, some of the same artists will be at Calgary's Saddledome.

In some ways, the big Canadian shows will be bringing up the rear in the U.S., the NBC television network will showcase Christina Aguilera, Sheryl Crow and other pop artists in a tsunami relief concert broadcast on Jan. 15. And by the time you read this, a host of smaller local benefits will be history. Skydivers in Winnipeg, Chicks with Pickles in Whistler, Mir and Crash in Halifax.

It's not the most instinctively appropriate response to catastrophe—the party of disaster, the festival of mourning—especially because, if you've ever been at a relief benefit, you'll recall that the mood is hardly one of quiet introspection. Yet the benefit concert has become such an automatic response to a crisis of global disaster that these shows spring up continuously, cheerfully, even producing an unintended erosion rate of compassion.

(Not incidentally, and again quite by acci-



dent, the benefit concert also put the lie to the cheap accusation that governments were "behind the people" in their response to the tsunami. It's true that ordinary citizens, or at least a few of them, managed to write cheques before the Martin government could deploy a field hospital. But when ordinary people decide to organize something more complex—rent a hall, book a band, put up posters—day had it takes about as long for them to respond in complex ways as it takes their governments.)

Consequently, this Christmas season offered a reminder of the moment when indignation irrevocably acquired the form of ruckus and big crowds. The 1985 Live Aid concerts in London and Philadelphia were hardly the first case of celebrity fundraising. The comedy variety shows that evolved into the Secret Policeman's Ball fundraisers for Amnesty International date back to 1976. But Live Aid was a turning

point to produce a spectacle as big as the tragedy at hand: the African famine centred in Ethiopia. Every big fundraiser since then has been a more or less conscious echo of Live Aid.

And right enough, a four-DVD compilation of Live Aid performances arrived at the end of 2004. It reminds me of what I first noticed on that July day in 1985 when the concerts were live broadcast: most famous pop bands are really bad.

Remember Ultravox? Adam Ant? Spandau Ballet? You don't? There's a reason. On the Live Aid DVDs, they're an endless succession of improbable howlers and shaky voices. Other acts fare better—Sade, Bryan Adams, David Bowie—but only twice in the space of four DVDs does a band completely dominate the moment. The bands that manage the trick are Queen and U2.

When Freddy Mercury gets the Wembley Stadium crowd clapping to Roda Gaps (and surely a negligible name), the force of his personality is obvious. Thousands of us move with him, and the crowd's so huge you can see the delay as the sound races from the stage to the back of the stadium.

Bono's performance makes even dumber in retrospect that U2 is a band for the ages. The Irish singer—inspired in genre short, leather pants and Peter Pan goggles—boots so completely fascinates the immense crowd that it never really recovers after his band's set is over. On Sunday Bloody Sunday, he pitches at the arm of the stage, down on one knee, singing over and over "We your team every."

Since 1985, of course, Bono has clearly become an emblem about the potential of compassion concerts. These days he is as likely to be spotted at meetings with heads of state or in the up-edges of great newspapers as onstage. As a rule of thumb, you can't change the world with a song. That doesn't mean it hurts to try.

To comment: backpage@melbourn.com  
Read Paul Wells's "Waking, 'Til Dawn's Here'" at [www.backpage.com/backpage](http://www.backpage.com/backpage)

## CAN YOU TELL WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS DRINK?

You can't see or taste the hepatitis virus in your drink. And that's just one of the many ways that over a million vacationing Canadians face hepatitis risk every year—even at the best tropical resorts. International Health Authorities consider that Mexico and the Caribbean islands are medium to high-risk areas for acquiring hepatitis A. Hepatitis A and B are serious liver diseases that can sometimes be fatal. Once infected, you could easily spread the illness to others back home, even before you know you're sick. Why take the chance?

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the pineapple is O.K.

the cherry is O.K.

the punch is O.K.

the 2nd ice cube may contain a hepatitis virus

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